NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BLS

Unemployment in the Pittsburgh Area by County – September 2016
Unemployment Rates in All Area Counties Increased Over the Year

In September, Butler County had the lowest unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, at 4.9 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that all seven Pittsburgh-area counties had jobless rates higher than the 4.8 percent U.S. average. Fayette County had the area's highest unemployment rate at 7.7 percent, followed by Armstrong County at 6.9 percent. The remaining counties had unemployment rates ranging from 6.1 percent in Beaver County to 5.2 percent in Allegheny County. (See chart 1 and chart 2. The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definition. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa., Metropolitan Statistical Area, September 2016, not seasonally adjusted

Source: U.S. Bureau at Labor Statistics.
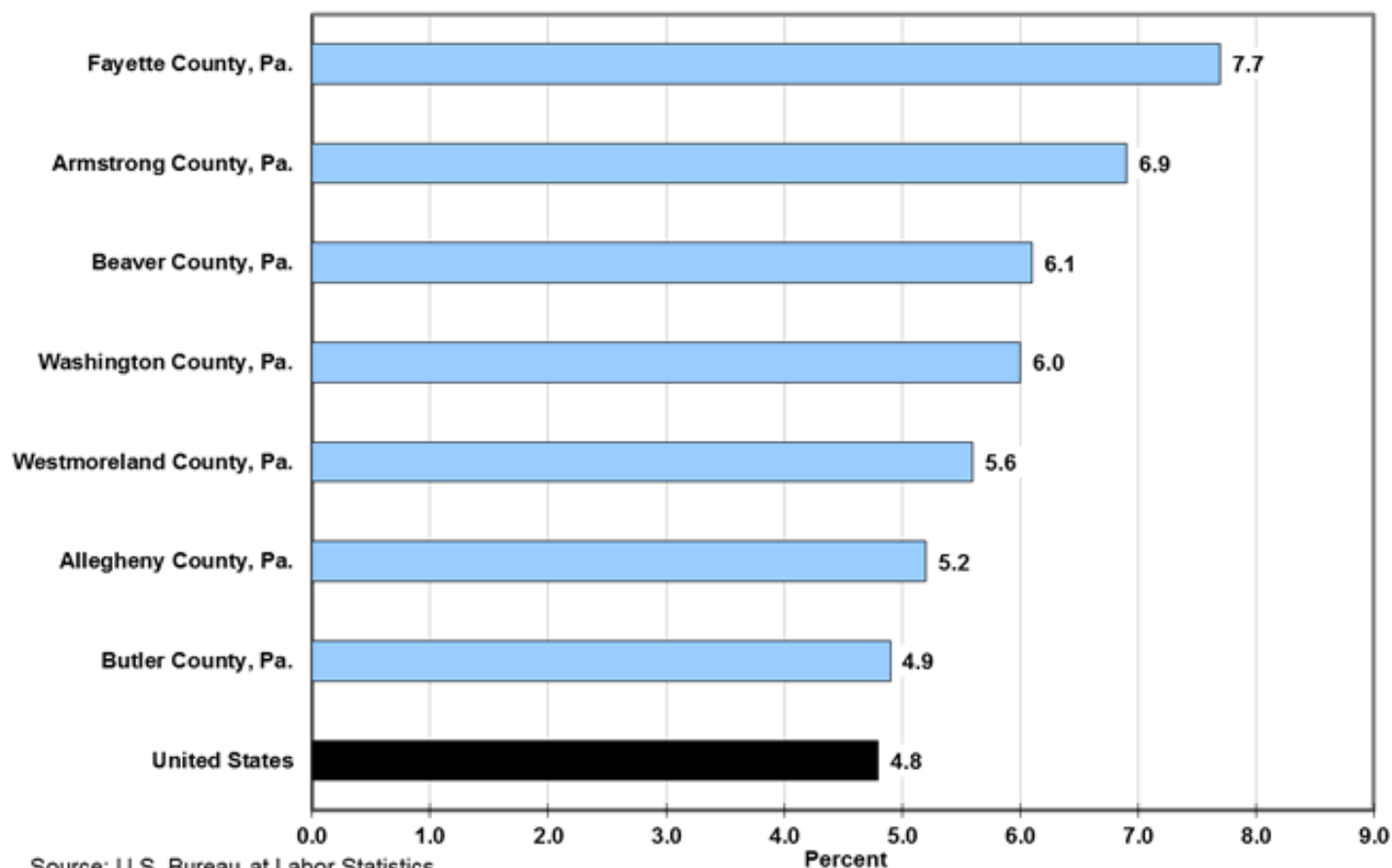
In September 2016, all seven Pittsburgh-area counties had over-the-year unemployment rate increases. (See table A.) The largest rate increase was in Fayette County at 1.4 percentage points, followed by Washington County at 1.0 percentage point. The remaining five counties in the area had increases of 0.8 or 0.9 percentage point from September 2015 to September 2016. Nationally, the unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage point from September a year ago.

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted

Area	Back data	Unemployment rates			Change from	
		Sep 2014	Sep 2015	Sep 2016 [1]	Sep 2014 to Sep 2016 [1]	Sep 2015 to Sep 2016 [1]
United States..	〰	5.7	4.9	4.8	-0.9	-0.1
Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area	〰	5.0	4.7	5.6	0.6	0.9
Allegheny County, Pa.	〰	4.8	4.4	5.2	0.4	0.8
Armstrong County, Pa.	〰	5.3	6.1	6.9	1.6	0.8
Beaver County, Pa.	〰	5.9	5.3	6.1	0.2	0.8
Butler County, Pa...	〰	4.3	4.0	4.9	0.6	0.9
Fayette County, Pa...	〰	6.5	6.3	7.7	1.2	1.4
Washington County, Pa.	〰	5.0	5.0	6.0	1.0	1.0
Westmoreland County, Pa..............................	〰	4.9	4.7	5.6	0.7	0.9

Footnotes
(1) Data for the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

From September 2014 to September 2016, all seven Pittsburgh-area counties had unemployment rate increases. The largest rate increase was in Armstrong County at 1.6 percentage points, followed by Fayette County at 1.2 percentage points. The remaining five counties in the area had increases ranging from 0.2 to 1.0 percentage point from September 2014 to September 2016. Nationally, the unemployment rate declined 0.9 percentage point during the two-year period.

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The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for October is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Technical Note

This release presents unemployment rate data for states and counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were

currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Methods of Estimation. The LAUS program is a hierarchy of non-survey methodologies for indirectly estimating employment and unemployment in states and local areas. Statewide data are produced through a modeling technique that uses estimates of payroll jobs from the Current Employment Statistics survey and unemployment insurance claims counts from the state workforce agencies to mitigate volatility in the direct CPS tabulations of employment and unemployment, respectively. Data for labor market areas, such as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions, are produced through a building block approach and adjusted proportionally to state model-based totals. Data for counties within labor market areas are produced through a disaggregation technique. A detailed description of the LAUS estimation procedures is available in chapter 4 of the BLS Handbook of Methods at https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch4.pdf.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. All substate estimates are reestimated and adjusted to add to the revised model-based estimates for states.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Chart 2. Unemployment rates for counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, September 2016

U.S. rate = 4.8 percent

Unemployment Rate
- 6.6% and above
- 6.1% to 6.5%
- 5.6% to 6.0%
- 5.5% and below

Butler

Armstrong

Beaver

Allegheny

Westmoreland

Washington

Fayette

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.